

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SSO-00 AID-05 HEW-04
OES-09 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
COME-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MED-05 FDRE-00 /065 W
-----075128 221654Z /46

O R 221530Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5757
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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PASS USDA/FAS/EDMINISTER/APHIS/MULHERN/CHALOUX/CALLIS/REICHERT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, DR
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF ASF OUTBREAK IN D.R.

REF: (A) SANTO DOMINGO 4114, (B) FASTO, AGATT FROM MULHERN
(C) TOFAS 66, (D) SANTO DOMINGO 3815, (E) SANTO DOMINGO 3712,
(F) SANTO DOMINGO 4133, (G) SANTO DOMINGO 4348, (H) STATE 204276

1. NO DEFINITE NATION-WIDE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT ASF HAS
BEEN DECIDED UPON BY GODR.

2. OUTGOING GODR INITIATED TOTAL DEPOPULATION OF FOLLOWING
PROVINCES IN THE SW: PEDERNALES, BARAHONA, INDEPENDENCIA,
BAHORUCO, LA ESTRELLETA, SAN JUAN AND AZUA, PLUS A 15 KM.
STRIP EXTENDING FROM THE HAITIAN BORDER INTO THE D.R.,
BEGINNING AT THE NORTH COAST LINE DOWN TO THE PROVINCE OF LA
ESTRELLETA, AND IN THE S.E. OF THE D.R. THE PROVINCE OF LA
ALTAGRACIA.

3. IN ADDITION, AREAS WHERE ISOLATED OUTBREAKS OCCUR ARE TO BE
TOTALLY DEPOPULATED. RECENT ACTION INDICATES THAT TOTAL
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DEPOPULATION HAS BEEN INITIATED IN THE MOCA, PERAVIA, AND
SANCHEZ RAMIREZ REGIONS.

4. DEPOPULATION OF SWINE BEGAN AROUND END OF JULY. AS OF
AUGUST 18 AN ESTIMATED 40,000 HEAD HAD BEEN SACRIFICED.

5. SIMULTANEOUSLY, WHEN THE DECISION WAS MADE TO

DEPUPULATE THE DESIGNATED AREAS, AND INDEMNIFICATION PROGRAM
IN THE AMOUNT OF D.R. 10 MILLION WAS ANNOUNCED BY GODR.

6. MONEY FOR THE R.D. 10 MILLION ASF

INDEMNIFICATION FUND IS TO BE RAISED BY AN INCREASE IN TAXES.
A COPY OF THE NEW TAX LAW HAS NOT YET BEEN STUDIED. HOWEVER,
IT APPEARS MONEY WILL BE RAISED AS FOLLOWS: AN ENACTMENT OF
ADDITIONAL 4 PERCENT INCREASE TO THE ALREADY EXISTING TAX
BEING PAID ON ALL IMPORTED GOODS. ALSO AN ACROSS-THE-
BOARD 3 PERCENT INCREASE IN PERSONAL INCOME TAX FOR ALL TAX
PAYERS. MONIES RAISED BY THE NEW TAXES ARE SPECIFICALLY
DESIGNATED BY THE LAW TO BE UTILIZED IN COMBATING ASF.

7. ACCORDING TO AGATT RECORDS, NUMBER OF SWINE IN THUS FAR
DESIGNATED AREA TO BE DEPUPULATED TOTAL APPROXIMATELY
355,000 HEAD. ASSUMING AN AVERAGE PER HEAD INDEMNIFICATION
OF RD50-60, WHICH WOULD BE CLOSE TO ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF
CURRENT AVERAGE MARKET VALUE, THE INDEMNIFICATION TO SWINE
PRODUCERS ALONE COULD TOTAL RD17.8 - 21.3 MILLION.

8. YET TO BE ADDED ARE THE FOLLOWING COSTS: CLEANING AND
DISINFECTING OF PREMISES, ALS SALARIES, LABOR AND ADMINISTRATION
COST ASSOCIATED WITH DEPOPULATION, OPPORTUNITY COST (LOSSES) TO
AFFECTED PRODUCERS, AS WELL AS COST TO THE NATION OF ADDITIONAL
MEAT IMPORTS NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN ADEQUATE MEAT SUPPLY LEVELS TO
CONSUMERS.

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9. FROM THIS BRIEF ANALYSIS, AN IDEA OF THE MAGNITUDE AND
SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM FACED BY THE GODR CAN PERHAPS BE BETTER
APPRECIATED.

10. USDA/APHIS TEAM AND AGATT BELIEVE THE GODR HAS 3 OPTIONS:
(A) AN "AS IS" POSITION (B) LIMITED DEPOPULATION.

11. THE "AS IS" APPROACH (AS CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATED BY TEAM
AND AGATT) COULD RESULT IN 60 PERCENT OF ALL SWINE BEING AFFECTED
WITH 60 PERCENT MORTALITY. CURRENT SWINE POPULATION BEING ESTIMATED
AT 1.2 MILLION HEAD. THEREFORE, TOTAL LOSSES COULD REACH AN
ESTIMATED 432,000 HEAD WITH CURRENT MARKET VALUE OF APPROXIMATELY
RD23.8 MILLION. SUBSEQUENT YEARLY LOSSES (MORTALITY AND ECONOMIC)
WOULD NOT BE AS SEVERE, BUT WOULD CONTINUE AT HIGH LEVELS FOR
MANY YEARS.

12. COST OF SPANISH APPROACH FOR FIRST YEAR IS ESTIMATED AT
APPROXIMATELY RD25 - 30 MILLION. SUBSEQUENT YEARLY COST ARE
ESTIMATED AT RD5-7 MILLION.

13. COST OF TOTAL DEPOPULATION, CLEANING, DISINFECTING, LABOR

AND ADMINISTRATION COST COULD TOTAL APPROXIMATELY RD135 - 140 MILLION. TIME REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT TOTAL DEPOPULATION, CLEANING AND REPOPULATION BACK TO A LOW LEVEL (10 - 15 PERCENT OF ORIGINAL PRE-SACRIFICE LEVELS) ESTIMATED TO TAKE MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS. ASSUMING NO RETURN OF ASF AFTER RESTOCKING, TOTAL TIME REQUIRED TO REBUILD HERDS BACK TO CURRENT LEVELS COULD, AT MINIMUM, TAKE 4 - 5 YEARS. THUS, IMPORTS OF PORK AND PORK PRODUCTS INTO D.R. DURING INTERIM PROBABLY WILL BE NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE, GIVEN DOMINICAN TASTE AND PREFERENCE FOR PORK.

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14. NO MATTER WHICH AVENUE OF APPROACH NEW GODR CHOOSES TO COMBAT ASF, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT UPON SMALL FARMER COULD BE CONSIDERABLE. GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE SMALL FARMER LACKS THE FLEXIBILITY TO CHANGE LIVELIHOODS. THUS, SOME TYPE OF "SUBSTITUTION ANIMAL" MAY NEED TO BE FOUND TO REPLACE THE SWINE OWNED BY SMALL FARMERS. SOME INDIVIDUALS IN GODR BELIEVES GOATS COULD BE ONE POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTE. HOWEVER, ANY ATTEMPT AT SUBSTITUTION COULD RAISE NEW AND DIFFICULT SOCIAL PROBLEMS WITHIN THE VILLAGE LIFE STYLE. PRESIDENT GUZMAN, IN A RECENT SHORT CONVERSATION WITH AGATT AND ASSISTANT AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AUG. 10, INDICATED THE PLIGHT OF THE SMALL FARMER IN THE BATTLE WITH ASF IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO HIM PERSONALLY, AS WELL AS GUZMAN REGIME.
BUT HE DID NOT GIVE ANY INDICATION AS TO HOW THE PROBLEM WOULD BE HANDLED.

15. LARGE SWINE PRODUCERS WITH MORE ECONOMIC FLEXIBILITY CAN PROBABLY SWITCH TO OTHER ENTERPRISES. IN MANY CASES THEY ARE NOW MOVING INTO LARGE SCALE FEEDING OF POULTRY, CATTLE OR SOME COMBINATION THEREOF.

16. IN A MEETING INVOLVING MEMBERS OF USDA/APHIS TEAM, AGATT,
AID OFFICIAL AND MEMBER OF NEW GODR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TEAM
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AUGUST 17, IT WAS LEARNED THAT NEW GOVERNMENT MAY MAKE A DECISION REGARDING "AVENUE OF APPROACH TO COMBAT ASF- WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. INFORMATION RECEIVED BY AGATT FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY IN HAITI REVEALS THAT HAITIAN AUTHORITIES ISSUED A DECREE DATED JULY 17, 1978 ORDERING THE SACRIFICING OF ALL SWINE LOCATED WITHIN 15 KM. OF D.R. BORDER. ALL SWINE, ACCORDING TO THE DECREE, WERE TO BE SLAUGHTERED AND IMMEDIATELY BURIED. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE DOMINICAN SOURCE, THE HAITIAN MILITARY HAS COMPLETED OR NEARLY COMPLETED DEPOPULATION OF THE DESIGNATED AREA AND IN SOME INSTANCES SWINE WERE SACRIFICED AS FAR AS 25 KM. FROM THE DOMINICAN BORDER. ADDITIONALLY, SOURCE STATED THAT VEHICULAR TRAFFIC BETWEEN HAITI AND D.R. WAS BEING THOROUGHLY SEARCHED. HAITIAN CANE CUTTERS TRAVELING IN AND OUT OF THE D.R. ARE REPORTEDLY BEING CAREFULLY SEARCHED BY HAITIAN AUTHORITIES AND WARNED ABOUT ASF.

17. USDA/APHIS OFFICIAL VISITED HAITI LAST PART OF JULY FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK. OFFICIAL WAS NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH AREAS OF COUNTRY HE WAS TAKEN TO, BUT EVEN SO, SAMPLE OBTAINED YIELDED NO POSITIVE ASF REACTIONS IN LAB TESTS. WHILE IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT HAITI IS FREE OF THE DISEASE; AN ASF FREE HAITI COULD CERTAINLY SIMPLIFY THE EVENTUAL ERADICATION OF THE DISEASE IN THE D.R.

18. THUS FAR, ASF SEEMS TO BE CONFINED TO D.R. HOWEVER, A CANADIAN VET RECENTLY CLINICALLY DIAGNOSED ASF IN BOTH DOMINICA AND ANTIGUA. A FEW DAYS LATER THE VET REPORTEDLY CHANGED HIS CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS TO HOG CHOLERA. REPORTS FROM MARTINIQUE STATE THAT "ALL SWINE WERE KILLED WITHIN AN 8 SQUARE KILOMETER AREA". REASON FOR THE SLAUGHTER IS NOT YET KNOWN. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, UNDER UN/FAO AUSPICES, 2 VETS FROM SPAIN AND ONE FROM CUBA HAVE VISITED THE D.R. WHILE EXACT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GODR ARE NOT OFFICIALLY KNOWN, LOCAL
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PRESS AUGUST 21 CARRIED STORY STATING UNITED NATION HAD RECOMMENDED "TOTAL QUARANTINE" OF COUNTRY AND TOTAL DEPOPULATION OF CERTAIN AREAS, SUCH AS THE NATIONAL DISTRICT, AS WELL AS 15 KILOMETER FRONTIER AREA. PRESS ACCOUNTS STATES THAT REPORT WAS DELIVERED TO AG. SECRETARY MEJIA ON AUGUST 19. TO RECAP, THE USDA TEAM PRESENCE IN THE D.R. WAS REQUESTED BY GODR

AND CONSEQUENTLY IT IS HERE SOLELY TO SUPPLY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.
THUS FAR, THE USDA TEAM HAS ASSISTED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
LABORATORY TO DIAGNOSE ASF IN THE D.R. ADDITIONALLY, AT THE
REQUEST OF THE GODR, THE TEAM DREW UP TENTATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL PLANS TO COMBAT THE DISEASE WHEN AND IF SUCH A
DECISION IS MADE BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

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